



For immediate release: Nov. 1, 2019

Attention: Reid Temple AME Church will host a Police-Community Town Hall

Glenn Dale, MD — On Monday, November 4, 2019, 7:00 PM Reid Temple AME Church will host a police-community town hall launching the Civility Conversations program. Reid Temple AME Church aims to stand in the gap to foster a social justice agenda that centers on improving police-civilian relations and racial healing.

Recent incidents in the Prince George's County, state of Maryland, and United States have breached trust inciting a call to action to invoke policy change surrounding social issues that affect the community. Reid Temple serves as a bridge between the community and police to promote human-centered, healing-driven, practical, and effective solutions.

The town hall will offer a platform and safe space to convene and discuss establishing understanding and trust that will help Prince George's County be a model for racial progress and community building. Everyone is invited to attend and join in on the conversation and opportunity to strategize around a plan of action to advance policies that help community members and police officers get home to their families safely.

The town hall is moderated by Dr. Rashawn Ray, Director of Reid Temple's Public Policy Institute, David M. Rubenstein Fellow at The Brookings Institution, and Associate Professor of Sociology and Executive Director of the Lab for Applied Social Science Research at the University of Maryland. The panel will feature elected officials, faith leaders, law enforcement officers, and concerned citizens who will engage in a discussion about building healthy police-community relations, transparency, and public policy.

Rev. Mark E. Whitlock Jr. was appointed the new Senior Pastor of Reid Temple July 7, 2019 and brings a zeal for social change with over 30 years of grassroots community development, racial reconciliation, police relations, working with schools and providing social services, and is known for helping to reclaim the community from gangs, drug dealers, and crack houses.

From raising funds for the families of fallen police officers and collecting hundreds of teddy bears for children in domestic violence households in Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Washington DC, this town hall event is a continuation of Reid Temple's work to build stronger police-civilian relations and uphold The AME Church's historic role of being a platform for social justice.

### **About Reid Temple**

Founded in 1964, Reid Temple AME Church is located in Glenn Dale Maryland. With the largest AME congregation of over 14,000 members from all walks of life, Reid Temple hosts over 80 innovative ministries designed to combat or provide comfort from the many challenging personal issues facing God's people. Reid Temple 501c3 organizations include, Reid CDC, Reid Temple Christian Academy, Reid Temple Bible College, and the Reid Temple Senior Center. Rev. Mark E. Whitlock, Jr. is the ninth Senior Pastor of Reid Temple AME Church.

Rev. Whitlock is available for interviews.

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